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Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from July 1998 to June 1999 (see annex I) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute containing its proposed programme of work for 1999–2000 (see annex II).

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Annex I

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from July 1998 to June 1999

Summary

The General Assembly issued a standing request in 1984 for the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis. To that end, the Director prepared the present report (covering the activities of the Institute from July 1998 to June 1999) for the consideration of the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the thirty-third session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, 28–30 June 1999. The Board of Trustees approved the submission of the present report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

The Director reports on the management, staffing and funding of UNIDIR, underlining that the subvention to the Institute from the United Nations regular budget is important not only for the operations of the Institute but also to safeguard its independence. The Director summarizes the research activities carried out under the main headings of global security and disarmament; regional security and disarmament; and human security and disarmament. Also reported on is the extensive networking capacity UNIDIR has established among research institutes worldwide. A list of the publications of the Institute issued during the period under review is contained in the appendix.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is an autonomous research institute within the framework of the United Nations. The Institute was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979 for the purpose of undertaking independent research on issues of disarmament and international security.

2. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 6 of its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984 and paragraph 6 of its resolution 45/62 G of 4 December 1990, in which the Director was invited to report annually to the Assembly on the activities carried out by the Institute. The present report covers the period from July 1998 to June 1999.[a]

II. Management and staffing

3. The work of UNIDIR is carried out with a dedicated but small staff: a director, a deputy director, an administrative assistant, a specialized secretary for publications, a computer systems manager, a projects coordinator, editors for the journal and for books, and project researchers. Currently the staff is small but growing, and most staff members are on one-year contracts. A stronger core staff is needed to reinforce the Institute's research programme. All attempts are being made to increase UNIDIR's core and project income, so that staff members can be increased and contracts can be improved.

4. The Institute holds weekly staff meetings, monthly research meetings and biannual strategic planning meetings. Equality of opportunity, skills training and staff appraisal are high on the management agenda.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

5. While efforts are continuing to increase the portion of administrative costs in tied contributions, non-earmarked money remains scarce. A subvention is therefore also necessary for the coming biennium. Such a subvention, which is used to cover the costs of the regular staff, including the Director, is important, not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute. It is important to note that for several years the subvention has not been adjusted for inflation while the salaries have been adjusted. In 1996 and 1997, the subvention was temporarily reduced from $220,000 to $213,000. The latter sum has been repeated for the 1998–1999 biennium and will also be allocated for the 2000–2001 biennium. It is UNIDIR's hope that eventually it will be possible to increase the subvention in line with inflation so that its value does not continue to decrease.

6. In view of the importance of the United Nations subvention, the matter should be kept under review as part of the effort to facilitate growth in voluntary income and attempts should be undertaken to ensure that it is increased to an adequate level and adjusted for inflation.

IV. Activities

7. The Institute's research programme comprises three sections: (a) global security and disarmament; (b) regional security and disarmament; and (c) human security and disarmament.

A. Global security and disarmament

8. Much of the focus of UNIDIR's work is on global security and disarmament. This includes research on the implementation of treaties already agreed and on issues relevant to current negotiations.

1. The Conference on Disarmament

9. UNIDIR has held a number of seminars in recent years focusing on global security issues and issues of relevance to the Conference on Disarmament. In January 1999, UNIDIR hosted several small meetings with delegations to the Conference to discuss the topic of fissile material stocks. In April 1999, UNIDIR published *Fissile Material Stocks: Characteristics, Measures and Policy Options*, by William Walker and Frans Berkhout. The publication is intended to support the Conference on Disarmament in its thinking on the range of options available to deal with stocks of fissile material. In early 1999, UNIDIR commissioned a report on fissile material inventories to provide an up-to-date account of fissile materials, assess national policies related to the production, disposition and verification of fissile materials, and identify facilities and locations which might be subject to safeguards under a treaty. Seminars on a wide range of topics relevant to the work of the Conference on Disarmament are being planned for the coming months.

10. The second issue of the Institute's bilingual journal, *Disarmament Forum*, focused on "Fissile Materials: Scope, Stocks and Verification". The issue contained contributions from 11 experts as well as an up-to-date bibliography on fissile materials.

2. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

11. In 1999, UNIDIR began a series of seminars aimed at discussing a wide range of issues relevant for nuclear disarmament. The first seminar, in March, entitled "How can war be prevented?", was given by Ambassador Jonathan Dean of the Union of Concerned Scientists in the United States of America. The second seminar, in May 1999, entitled "Retaking the initiative to reduce nuclear dangers", was presented by Michael Krepon, President of the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, D.C. Future seminars will cover topics such as de-alerting, missile defences, verification and negotiating processes. In August 1998, the *UNIDIR NewsLetter* was dedicated to "Nuclear De-alerting: Taking a Step Back".

12. In September 1998, UNIDIR held an expert discussion meeting on "The implications of South Asia's nuclear tests for the non-proliferation and disarmament regimes". Fifty experts from over 25 countries attended the meeting and UNIDIR published the proceedings in both hard-copy and electronic formats.

3. Biological weapons

13. Professor Susan Wright of the University of Michigan began a visiting research fellowship in 1998 on the issue of biological weapons. At the beginning of her tenure, under the auspices of UNIDIR, Professor Wright organized the Conference on Biological Warfare and Disarmament: Problems, Perspectives and Possible Solutions. Forty experts from many parts of the world attended the Conference, which was open to all States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention. Papers from the Conference are being published in the academic press. Since late 1998, Professor Malcolm Dando of the University of Bradford has been a Senior Research Fellow examining the current international efforts to prevent the proliferation and use of biological weapons.

14. In December 1998, UNIDIR and the Quaker United Nations Office jointly held a workshop entitled "How can visits contribute to strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention?". All States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention were invited to attend the workshop, which addressed the different positions on proposals for random, clarification and voluntary visits. Further seminars aimed at assisting the negotiations are planned for the coming months.

4. Space technologies

15. UNIDIR's project on the transfer of dual-use outer-space technologies was completed in late 1998. The research report, *The Transfer of Dual-Use Outer-Space Technologies: Confrontation or Cooperation?*, by Péricles Gasparini Alves, is due for publication in 1999.

5. Implementing treaties

16. In 1998, UNIDIR began preparations for a series of projects on the implementation of treaties. The first project studies the costs of implementing disarmament treaties. The study will produce a cost-benefit analysis of treaty implementation, including the costs of: dismantling weapons; the implementing bodies; verification activities; and the various meetings of States parties.

17. A second project examines the common problems of the international implementing bodies of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (namely, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, respectively). Preliminary discussions were held in late 1998 and the first in a series of seminars in collaboration with the implementing bodies was held in mid-June 1999.

6. Security and disarmament thinking

18. UNIDIR began work on a volume of definitions of arms control, disarmament and security terms in 1998. The book, due to be published in 1999, is intended as a reference manual for the student and the practitioner. The first edition of the book will appear in English and Arabic. The Institute is eager to see it translated into other languages so as to facilitate better understanding about disarmament issues, particularly in countries with little tradition of study in this field.

19. In the last decade, there have been several attempts to reformulate the disarmament and security agenda. UNIDIR believes that the time is now ripe for new ideas to be injected into the multilateral process to shake up old arguments and proposals. To this end, the Institute has been running an electronic conference since late 1998 to pool together the current and innovative thinking that is taking place on the issue of a new security agenda. The conference can be

accessed via UNIDIR's Web site (http://www.unog.ch/UNIDIR/) and participation is global in scope. Any significant results from the conference will aid discussions about a fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. In addition, the first issue of *Disarmament Forum*, entitled "The New Security Debate" contained articles on new thinking in security and disarmament.

B. Regional security and disarmament

20. The importance of regional security has always been clear in UNIDIR's research programme. Over the last two years, the Institute has focused on Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, North-East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia.

1. Peacekeeping in Africa

21. In addition to UNIDIR's work on the Malian "Flame of Peace" and the West African Small Arms Moratorium (see sect. C.1 below), two UNIDIR research fellows, Eric Berman and Katie Sams, have been conducting research on peacekeeping in Africa. Entitled "Peacekeeping in Africa: meeting the growing demand", the project studies the growing tendency to subcontract peace operations in Africa to regional and subregional organizations. The research project is a collaboration between UNIDIR and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in South Africa. Some of the results of the project were published in 1998 in a variety of formats, including a research paper published in the ISS Monograph Series, entitled "Constructive Disengagement: Western Efforts to Develop African Peacekeeping" (No. 33, December 1998). In collaboration with ISS, UNIDIR is publishing a book on this issue in 1999.

2. Peacekeeping in general

22. In 1998, UNIDIR published *Sensors for Peace: Applications, Systems and Legal Requirements for Monitoring in Peace Operations*, edited by Jürgen Altmann, Horst Fischer and Henny van der Graaf. The book examines some of the technologies available for peace operations and at how they could best be employed.

3. Latin America

23. As part of UNIDIR's fellowship programme, in 1998 the Institute hosted a visiting fellow from Brazil, Marcos Rosas Degaut Pontes. He contributed to the UNIDIR research programme on small arms and human security.

4. The Middle East

24. Following on from the previous work carried out by UNIDIR on the Middle East and the role of satellite imagery, UNIDIR and the Cooperative Monitoring Centre at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, United States of America, held a conference on "Potential Uses of Commercial Satellite Imagery in the Middle East" in September 1998. Senior experts from a range of countries in the Middle East and from other regions attended the conferences; the proceedings are to be published by UNIDIR in 1999.

25. *Non-Offensive Defence in the Middle East*, a book authored by Bjørn Møller, Gustav Däniker, Shmuel Limone and Ioannis Stivachtis that was the outcome of the UNIDIR 1996 workshop on cooperative security in the Middle East, was published in late 1998.

5. Asia

26. Since the nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan in May 1998, there has been a great deal of effort aimed at reducing tension in South Asia. In support of these activities, UNIDIR held a two-day discussion meeting in November 1998 on "Trust and confidence-building measures in South Asia". The meeting was attended by non-governmental and governmental experts and considered examples of confidence-building measures in a number of regions, and specifically the history of building trust and confidence in South Asia. Participants at the meeting proposed a range of practical measures to help build trust and confidence in the region. A short summary of the meeting was published on UNIDIR's Web site and in hard copy in December 1998. A longer summary will be published in 1999.

27. In late 1998, UNIDIR began preparations for research papers on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and on the situation of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe.

C. Human security and disarmament

28. Small arms and light weapons are the cause of death for millions of people in violent conflicts in every part of the world. For many years, UNIDIR has focused on the issue of small arms.

1. Small arms in West Africa

29. Following on from the successful UNIDIR conference held at Bamako at the end of 1996 (at which the proposal for a small arms moratorium for West Africa gained a new

political resonance), UNIDIR began a research project on the peace process in Mali. The project focused on the path that led to the collection of small arms in Mali and the "Flame of Peace". From this project, UNIDIR has produced two books, a research report, an academic paper and a UNIDIR Brief.

30. Part of this work was carried out in cooperation with the Conflict Transformation Working Group at the University of Helsinki and much of the intellectual, financial and moral support for the work came from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mali. UNIDIR's Senior Research Fellow, Robin Edward Poulton, led the research, in collaboration with Ibrahim ag Youssouf, UNDP, Mali. They authored two books, *A Peace of Timbuktu* and the second edition *La Paix de Tombouctou*. The studies highlighted a number of conclusions and options for policy makers with regard to conflict prevention and disarmament. Lessons learned from the experience in Mali were analysed in the report entitled *Collaboration internationale et construction de la paix en Afrique de l'Ouest: l'exemple du Mali*, by Robin Edward Poulton, Ibrahim ag Youssouf and Jacqueline Seck.

31. A project was begun in late 1998 to support the implementation of the small arms moratorium by stimulating intellectual debates on national security policies and the control of small arms in selected West African States.

2. Controlling small arms through controlling ammunition

32. Since 1998, in coordination with the Department of Disarmament Affairs at Headquarters, UNIDIR has been undertaking a study of issues related to small arms ammunition, UNIDIR's Deputy Director, Christophe Carle, is a member of the Study Group, as is Col. Ilkka Tiihonen of Finland, who worked at UNIDIR in late 1998. The study will be submitted to the General Assembly and will complement the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (see A/52/298). Its aim is to provide solid and comprehensive grounds on which to assess whether and how the control of ammunition can contribute to efforts to stop the dissemination and use of small arms. Rigorous technical information and analysis of ammunition production and trade, of marking and other means of tracking ammunition is needed in order to enable an assessment of practical policy options.

3. Regional and cross-regional perspectives on illicit trafficking in small arms

33. In 1999, UNIDIR began a project to study the flow of illicit small arms throughout the world. The first part of this project examines the flow of illicit arms through Central Asia as a consequence of the protracted Afghan conflicts. This work is being carried out by Visiting Research Fellow Bobi Pirseyedi of Finland.

34. The next stage of the project is to study the flow of illicit weapons through the Russian Federation, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe, with particular attention to the role of organized crime in the region in the practical details of arms smuggling. A further stage will study the flow of small arms through South Asia into North-East Asia. Additional stages could include studying the flow of illicit arms in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and the Americas, thus providing a coherent map and analysis of the main trafficking routes in the world and their impact on, and connection with, violent conflicts.

4. Geneva Forum seminars on small arms

35. The Geneva Forum is a collaborative programme begun in 1998 between UNIDIR, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies. The Forum consists of a series of seminars held at Geneva on controlling the spread of small arms. Invited international experts speak on a topical subject, followed by questions and open discussion. Experts have included Herbert Wulf, Chris Smith, Ed Laurance, Eric Berman, David Meddings, Robin Copeland, Ambassador Donawaki, Ambassador Mernier and Graciela Uribe de Lozano.

5. Landmines

36. Following UNIDIR's collaborative project with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre at Ispra, Italy, to produce a special issue of the *UNIDIR NewsLetter* on the elimination of landmines, UNIDIR representatives have attended a number of landmine-related meetings. These include the meeting of the Committee of Advisers on "Detection of mines based on operation standards", held at the Joint Research Centre; the "Demining Technologies International Symposium and Exhibition", held at Ispra in September/October 1998; and the First Conference of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, held at Maputo in May 1999. UNIDIR is currently preparing an issue of *Disarmament Forum* focusing on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, to be published in November 1999.

V. Networking

37. One of UNIDIR's main functions is to cooperate actively with specialized agencies, organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and to cooperate with other organizations active in the field of disarmament. The Institute has a number of formal and informal programmes and working arrangements with a wide selection of other organizations.

A. DATARIS

38. In cooperation with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), UNIDIR has developed an on-line database of research institutes and projects worldwide. The database can be accessed through the UNIDIR Web site (see para. 19) and institutes can update their information via a password.

39. UNIDIR's Web site is frequently updated and further developed. An increasing proportion of UNIDIR's collaboration with other researchers is done either through the Institute's Web site or by electronic mail. This means of communication enables UNIDIR to publish in electronic format and reach some parts of the world that hitherto have been difficult to access. Electronic information swapping also allows UNIDIR to stay abreast of developments in the disarmament and security field and thus assists its research activities.

B. *Disarmament Forum*

40. UNIDIR publishes a bilingual quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum*. Until the end of 1998, the quarterly publication was the *UNIDIR NewsLetter*. The year 1998 marked the tenth anniversary of the *NewsLetter* and UNIDIR decided to change the style of the publication, update it and rename it to reflect the serious journal that it had become. The final issue of the *NewsLetter* looked back over the 10 years of its existence and published articles on the theme "Disarmament and Security: The Past Decade".

41. Each issue of *Disarmament Forum* has a theme related to security and disarmament. There are papers by experts focusing on the theme and shorter articles on other subjects. Summaries of UNIDIR's current research projects and recent publications are contained withing each issue. Other institutes are encouraged to inform UNIDIR of their activities for inclusion. The first issue of *Disarmament Forum* focused on "The New Security Debate" and the second issue on "Fissile Materials: Scope, Stocks and Verification".

C. Conferences, seminars and discussion meetings

42. UNIDIR holds a range of different types of research meetings both in Geneva and in different regions around the world. The meetings are held with the dual purpose of examining issues of security, arms control and disarmament and of fostering cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned.

43. The Institute provides an electronic forum for research institutes, national and international organizations working in the area of disarmament and international security to become more familiar with one another. Electronic conferences can alleviate the financial and time expenditures normally associated with international conferences. Currently UNIDIR is hosting an electronic conference on reformulating the disarmament and security agenda. The conference can be accessed through the UNIDIR Web site.

44. In cooperation with the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies, UNIDIR has set up an occasional venue for information and informal discussion among the diplomatic and research communities in Geneva: the Geneva Forum. Invited experts speak on a topical subject, followed by questions and open discussion. In 1998, the Geneva Forum focused on the problems pertaining to the spread of small arms (see para. 35).

45. UNIDIR has enhanced its cooperation with various institutes and organizations worldwide. In 1998, it participated in the third International Security Forum in Zurich. The Institute has also participated in the meetings of the European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies (EINIRAS), which aims at improving connectivity among institutes and related organizations in Europe. UNIDIR was represented on the EINIRAS Steering Committee from 1995 to 1998.

46. UNIDIR has also increased cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. For example, UNIDIR is a participant in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, which brings together departments and organizations within the United Nations system that have programmes related to the control of small arms. CASA is the Department's mechanism for consultation, information exchange and priority-setting among departments and agencies. Modalities for sharing information between the

Department for Disarmament Affairs and UNIDIR on forthcoming activities have been established and plans are under way for jointly organized seminars.

VI. Publications

47. UNIDIR began publication of its new journal, *Disarmament Forum*, in 1999. Each issue of this quarterly, bilingual publication deals with a special theme.

48. All of the Institute's publications are currently being redesigned to make them more accessible to a wider readership. Beginning in the latter part of 1998, the cover layouts of all UNIDIR publications have been redesigned to increase their on-the-shelf attractiveness to readers and to ensure design continuity. Page layout is also being redesigned, so to enhance readability.

49. A list of UNIDIR publications for the period from July 1998 to June 1999 is contained in the appendix to the present report.

Notes

[a] For the previous reports on the activities of the Institute, see A/38/475, A/39/553, A/40/725, A/41/676, A/42/607, A/43/686, A/44/421, A/45/392, A/46/334, A/47/345, A/48/270, A/49/329, A/50/416, A/51/364, A/52/272 and A/53/187.

Appendix

UNIDIR publications for the period July 1998–June 1999

Research Reports/Rapports de recherche

Curbing Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Sensitive Technologies: An Action-Oriented Agenda, by Péricles Gasparini Alves and Daiana Cipollone (eds.), 1998. 286p. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.98.0.8). Also available in Spanish: *Represión del tráfico ilícito de armas pequeñas y tecnologías sensibles: Una agenda Orientada hacia la acción*, por Péricles Gasparini Alves y Daiana Cipollone (eds.), 1998. 288p. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.S.98.0.8).

Non-offensive Defence in the Middle East, by Bjørn Møller, Gustav Däniker, Shmuel Limone and Ioannis A. Stivachtis, 1998. 150p. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.98.0.27).

Sensors for Peace: Applications, Systems and Legal Requirements for Monitoring in Peace Operations, by Jürgen Altmann, Horst Fisher and Henny J. van der Graaf (eds.), 1998. 298p. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.98.0.28).

The implications of South Asia's Nuclear Tests for the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Regimes, 1999. 28p. (United Nations publication, UNIDIR/99/2).

Collaboration internationale et construction de la paix en Afrique de l'Ouest: l'exemple du Mali, par Robin Edward Poulton, Ibrahim ag Youssouf et Jacqueline Seck, 1999. 64p. (United Nations publication, UNIDIR/99/4).

Fissile Material Stocks: Characteristics, Measures and Policy Options, by William Walker and Frans Berkhout, 1999. 66p. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.99.0.15).

La paix de Tombouctou — Gestion démocratique, développement et construction africaine de la paix, par Robin Edward Poulton et Ibrahim ag Youssouf, 1998. 437p. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.F.98.0.3).

UNIDIR Briefs/Note de l'UNIDIR

Curbing Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Sensitive Technnologies: An Action-Oriented Agenda/Represión del tráfico ilícito de armas pequeñas y tecnologías sensibles: Una agenda orientada hacia la acción, UNIDIR Brief No. 2/1998.

Non-Offensive Defence in the Middle East?, UNIDIR Brief No. 3/1998.

Sensors for Peace: Applications Systems and Legal Requirements for Monitoring in Peace Operations, UNIDIR Brief No. 4/1998.

UNIDIR NewsLetter/Lettre de l'UNIDIR (quarterly/trimestrielle)

No. 38 Nuclear De-alerting: Taking a Step Back./La levée de l'état d'alerte des forces nucléaires.

No. 39* Disarmament and Security: The Past Decade./ Désarmement et sécurité: bilan d'une décennie.

*End of the series.

Disarmament Forum

One 1999
Un 1999 — The New Security Debate/Le nouveau débat sur la sécurité.

Two 1999
Deux 1999 — Fissile Materials: Scope, Stocks and Verification./Un traité sur les matiéres fissiles: portée, stocks et vérification.

Annex II

Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research containing the proposed programme of work for 1999–2000

Summary

Pursuant to the statute of UNIDIR, on 28 June 1999, the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR took three actions in connection with the work of the Institute. First, it reviewed the report of the Director (see above) and, after commending the dedication of the small staff, approved its submission to the General Assembly. Secondly, the Board reviewed the proposed programme of activities for 1999–2000. It made several comments on the research programme, which were duly incorporated into the report (sect. IV, "Planned activities"), and approved a slightly revised version for submission to the Assembly. Thirdly, by means of its report, the Board transmits to the Secretary-General a recommendation for a subvention from the regular budget for the year 2000.

The tables appended to the report of the Board contain details on the status of the voluntary contributions to the Institute for 1998, 1999 and 2000 as well as the estimates of income and expenditure for 1999–2000 and the estimated resource requirements for the same period. To date, voluntary contributions to the Institute amount to approximately US$ 682,305.

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I. Review of the report of the Director on the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

1. Pursuant to the provisions of article IV, paragraph 2 (1), of the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR),[a] the Director of the Institute, Ms. Patricia Lewis, reported to the Board of Trustees on 28 June 1999 on the activities of the Institute for the period from July 1998 to June 1999 (see annex I). The report was an extension of a preliminary oral report on the activities of the Institute from July 1998 to January 1999, which the Director had presented to the Board of Trustees at its thirty-second session in January 1999 in Geneva.

2. At the Geneva meeting, the Board noted with appreciation the preliminary report of the Director. It encouraged her to explore the possibility of seeking a cost-of-living index attached to the United Nations subvention to the budget of the Institute. Various members of the Board made suggestions on the orientation of the Institute's programme; the Director took note of those suggestions.

3. At the thirty-third session of the Board, members expressed satisfaction that the programme of work for 1998–1999 had been implemented in an exemplary fashion. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Director, the Deputy Director and the staff of the Institute for the successful implementation of the previous year's programme.

4. The board unanimously commended the Director for her unflagging fund-raising activities.

5. The Board approved the report of the Director for submission to the General Assembly.

6. The Board reviewed the proposed programme of work for 1999–2000 put forward by the Director. It made several suggestions on current and future projects, which the Director indicated she would take into account as far as financial and human resources allowed.

7. The Board approved the proposed programme of work for submission to the General Assembly (see sect. IV below).

II. Management and staffing

8. The Board noted that UNIDIR's work was carried out by a dedicated but small staff: a director, a deputy director, an administrative assistant, a specialized secretary for publications, a computer systems manager, a projects coordinator, editors for the journal and for books, and project researchers. It also noted that most staff members were on one-year contracts. It supported the Director's view that a stronger core staff was needed to reinforce the Institute's research programme and her efforts to increase the Institute's core and project income, so that staff numbers can be increased and staff contracts can be improved.

9. The Board encouraged the Director to continue to hold weekly staff meetings, monthly research meetings and biannual strategic planning meetings, and to keep equality of opportunity, skills training and staff appraisal high on the management agenda.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

10. The Board took note that, despite continuing efforts to increase the portion of administrative costs in tied contributions, non-earmarked money remained scarce. It agreed that a subvention was therefore necessary for the coming biennium. It concurred that such a subvention, which was used to cover the costs of the regular staff, including the Director, was important, not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute.

11. In the period 1996–1997, the subvention had been temporarily reduced from $220,000 to $213,000. The latter sum had been allotted once again from the 1998–1999 biennium and would also be allocated for the 2000–2001 biennium. The Board of Trustees expressed the hope that eventually it would be possible to restore the subvention to its pre-1996 level so that its value did not continue to decrease.

12. Further, the Board noted with regret that for several years the subvention had not been adjusted for inflation. In view of the importance of the United Nations subvention to the operations of the Institute, the Board requested that the appropriate United Nations budget office, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question and the Fifth Committee keep the matter under review.

13. Pursuant to article VIII, paragraph 3, of the statute of the Institute, the Board unanimously decided to transmit to the Secretary-General by means of the present report a recommendation for a subvention for the Institute from the regular budget of the United Nations for the year 2000.

IV. Planned activities

14. UNIDIR's research programme comprises three sections: (a) global security and disarmament; (b) regional security and disarmament; and (c) human security and disarmament.

A. Global security and disarmament

15. Much of the focus of UNIDIR's work is on global security and disarmament. This includes research on the implementation of treaties already concluded and on issues relevant to current negotiations.

1. The Conference on Disarmament

16. UNIDIR will continue to focus much of its efforts on issues pertinent to the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The Institute will publish further reports on the topics of fissile material control and space technologies. Seminars are planned on nuclear disarmament, fissile materials, missile defences and the current status of arms control and disarmament efforts. An electronic conference to address the structures and working methods of the Conference on Disarmament is also being planned.

2. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

17. UNIDIR will continue its discussion seminars on a wide range of issues relevant to nuclear disarmament. Future seminar topics include: de-alerting, missile defences, verification, negotiating processes and tactical nuclear weapons. UNIDIR has also commissioned research on the proposed Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone and is in the process of editing a book on tactical nuclear weapons in Central Europe. The control and reduction of short-range and tactical nuclear weapons will be the subject of an in-depth study.

18. UNIDIR is dedicating the first issue in 2000 of its quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum,* to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in April/May 2000. Contributing authors will analyse the difficulties within the Treaty and the review process and suggest practical action for the future.

19. UNIDIR is currently developing a research project on export controls and their implementation with a view to studying their efficacy, their implementation and their future.

3. Biological weapons

20. Two visiting research fellows will continue with their research programmes on biological weapons control and biological warfare.

21. UNIDIR and the Quaker United Nations Office plan to hold further discussion meetings on topics relevant to the negotiations for a protocol to the Biological Weapons Convention. These may include discussions on technology transfer, export controls and field investigations.

22. In an attempt to study how States can gain access to the technologies required for biological weapons, UNIDIR is collaborating on a project with the Centre for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, to examine how, during the apartheid era, South Africa developed significant expertise on biological and chemical weapons. Case studies involving other countries are also being considered.

4. Space technologies

23. A research report on the transfer of dual-use outer-space technologies is due for publication in 1999–2000 and UNIDIR is also beginning a research project on missile defences, closely studying their connection with space-based technologies.

5. Implementing treaties

24. UNIDIR's project on the costs of implementing disarmament treaties will begin the first phase of its work in the second half of 1999 and is due for completion before the end of 2000.

25. The first meeting of the project to study the different approaches to similar problems by multilateral implementing bodies took place in June 1999 with a discussion on the handling of information.

26. Compliance with international treaties is one of the most important aspects of international security. How to prevent non-compliance and how to deal with non-compliance are aspects of a study that UNIDIR is developing for 2000.

27. Issue 3, 1999, of *Disarmament Forum* highlights on-site inspection regimes.

6. Security and disarmament thinking

28. UNIDIR will begin a study on the implications of military intervention surveying the historical development of the rules of intervention and particularly examining cases

where military intervention has been carried out on the grounds of preventing the abuse of human rights. The study will analyse the various types of intervention and consider the effects of such action, including displaced persons, refugees, deaths and infrastructure damage. The study will result in a publication and discussion meetings.

29. The Institute will begin to develop a research project to investigate new technologies that could lead, in the very long term, to new types of weapons system. Progress in conventional explosives and in computer-aided targeting will form a main part of the focus in this project.

30. UNIDIR's book on arms control, disarmament and security terms is due for completion, including translation into Arabic, in late 1999.

31. The electronic conference on a new security agenda accessible through the Institute's Web site will continue. The aim of the conference is to assist researchers in formulating new ideas in disarmament and security.

32. In August 1999, UNIDIR will hold a joint conference with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs on information security. As our societies become increasingly dependent on information technology, a new form of warfare is emerging — information technology warfare. The conference will look at the issues and suggest ways to tackle the problems posed by the vulnerabilities of information technology.

B. Regional security and disarmament

1. Peacekeeping in Africa

33. UNIDIR's project on the new forms of peacekeeping in Africa will be completed in the latter half of 1999. The Institute is exploring follow-on projects to this increasingly important field of study.

34. The Institute is also conducting a research project in West Africa aimed at supporting the West African Small Arms Moratorium (WASAM). This project is described in more detail below (see para. 39).

35. Additionally, issue No. 3, 2000, of *Disarmament Forum* will focus on the complex controversies surrounding peacekeeping missions and mandates.

2. The Middle East

36. Following on the seminar of experts that was held in Geneva in 1998 with the Cooperative Monitoring Center of Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States of America, UNIDIR is developing a project to produce a book of commercially available satellite images depicting the problems of water resources in the Middle East. The aim of the book is to demonstrate the link between the environment and security and to show one of the contributing factors to insecurity in the Middle East.

3. Asia

37. In addition to publishing a report of the meeting that it held on trust and confidence-building in South Asia, UNIDIR is currently developing two projects to assist in enhancing the security of the States of the region. The first is a study of the security dilemmas in South Asia, drawing on wide-ranging indigenous expertise. The second is a proposal to use commercial satellite images to study some of the environmental factors that have increased the tension and the likelihood for conflict between States in the region.

38. The proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is beginning to bear fruit, with the five Central Asian States currently negotiating an agreement. UNIDIR aims to produce a study on the proposed zone, analysing its significance and its means of implementation.

C. Human security and disarmament

1. Small arms in West Africa

39. Since late 1998, UNIDIR has been setting up a research project in West African States. Starting in Mali, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the aim of the project is to stimulate in each country a debate on national and regional security. Partner research organizations and individuals are being identified and then commissioned to write papers on the various aspects of security in their countries. Seminars on the role of armaments and the complex roles played by the military, police, civil society organizations and government in national and regional security will be held during the next two years. UNIDIR will publish a selection of the research papers and it is hoped that several of the West African researchers will be able to spend time in Geneva, building contacts and enlarging their skills base. Funding is being sought to carry out this work in a larger number of West African countries.

2. Controlling small arms through controlling ammunition

40. Following the completion, in June 1999, of the work of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives (see A/54/155), UNIDIR will be disseminating the results of this work through seminars and publications,

thereby assisting the efforts within the United Nations structures to control the illegal spread of small arms. Issue No. 2, 2000, of *Disarmament Forum* will highlight issues related to small arms.

3. Regional and cross-regional perspectives on illicit trafficking in small arms

41. Following on the work on illicit trafficking in small arms through Central Asia, UNIDIR is developing a project to study the illicit flow of small arms through the Russian Federation, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe. Further development of the project will entail an examination of the flow of arms through South Asia, North-East Asia and South-East Asia, through the Middle East, Europe, Africa and the Americas. The aim is to provide a coherent map and analysis of the main illicit trafficking routes for small arms throughout the world and their impact on violent conflicts.

4. Geneva Forum seminars on small arms

42. The collaborative seminar programme between UNIDIR, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies, now in its third year, is set to continue until the end of 1999. It is hoped that adequate funding will allow the three organizations to continue the project and thus help in informing the diplomatic community in Geneva about the consequences of the spread of small arms.

5. Landmines

43. After the rapid entry into force of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines and the first Conference of States Parties in Maputo, Mozambique, UNIDIR is preparing issue No. 4, 1999, of *Disarmament Forum* on the implementation of the Treaty.

6. Militarization of refugee camps

44. During conflicts as well as between them, when hundreds of thousands of refugees are living in squalid and dangerous conditions, the various parties to the conflicts often attempt to exploit the refugees' vulnerabilities. In exchange for food and privileges, young people — often children — are recruited into militias. Arms are traded through the camps and intelligence is sought and provided. All too often, the camps become quasi-training camps and fertile ground for the seeds of continuing conflict. Along with the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, UNIDIR has embarked on a project to study this problem. Case studies have been identified and a series of publications will be forthcoming. The project will attempt to identify the common causes of the militarization of refugee camps and thus assist refugee agencies in the planning and execution of their work.

V. Networking

A. DATARIS

45. In order to assist the international community with making contacts within the field of disarmament and international security, UNIDIR and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) have developed an on-line database of research institutes and projects around the world. The database can be accessed through UNIDIR's Web site and institutes can update their own information via a password. Over the next year, work will continue on the database to upgrade and improve it.

B. UNIDIR's Web site

46. Over the last year, UNIDIR has made significant changes to its bilingual (French and English) Web site. Work will continue on the site so as to improve its accessibility and to increase the contacts between UNIDIR and researchers worldwide.

C. *Disarmament Forum*

47. One of the functions of UNIDIR's quarterly journal is to maintain and increase UNIDIR's contacts and visibility. *Disarmament Forum* is now published on the Web site in easy-to-download PDF files. *Disarmament Forum* is published in both French and English and makes a serious contribution to the literature on disarmament and security in both languages.

D. Conferences, seminars and discussion meetings

48. UNIDIR will continue to hold a wide range of meetings around the world as well as in cyberspace. These meetings take a number of different forms and are aimed at understanding complex disarmament and security issues. UNIDIR collaborates with other institutes whenever possible

to produce a wider variety of meetings and to increase its outreach.

E. Collaboration with other institutions

49. UNIDIR has continued to increase the numbers of collaborating institutes for research projects and meetings. In 2000, the International Security Forum will be held at Geneva and UNIDIR will participate in the planning and execution of the Forum. As part of Switzerland's contribution to the Forum, the Government is funding "clusters of competence" discussion groups in Switzerland. UNIDIR is an active member of the arms control cluster and is assisting in the planning of two meetings and two reports on specific aspects of conflict and arms control.

F. Collaboration within the United Nations structure

50. As part of an attempt to improve the functioning of the United Nations system, there is increased cooperation among the organs of the United Nations. In this context, UNIDIR has increased its cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. A joint seminar is being held in August 1999 and it is hoped that additional joint seminars can be held in 2000 and beyond. Although the meetings take place in New York, UNIDIR is a participant in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), an initiative of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

51. The Institute is also continuing its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme in West Africa and is working closely with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. UNIDIR hopes to collaborate also with the regional centres for Asia and Latin America.

52. UNIDIR has worked with a number of other bodies within the United Nations system. The Institute aims to support work towards peace and international security throughout the United Nations and is particularly interested in linking together peace, security, disarmament, human rights and development. UNIDIR is participating in a series of meetings held by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva to increase cooperation between United Nations research bodies in Europe and outside research bodies.

G. Publications

53. UNIDIR is planning a large number of publications over the coming 18 months. These include the quarterly journal *Disarmament Forum* and a number of books and research reports. The Institute has recently reactivated its collaboration with Dartmouth Publishing Company, under the imprint of Ashgate Publishing Limited and intends to co-publish a number of books with them in order to reach a wider audience. The first book to appear under this joint venture is in itself a collaborative project with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Entitled *Small Arms Control: Old Weapons, New Issues*, it is an edited compilation of papers presented to the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms in 1997 and 1998.

VI. Finance

54. To date, voluntary contributions in 1999 amount to about US$ 682,305 (see table 2).

55. Tables 1 to 5 show the financial status of UNIDIR, as follows:

(a) Table 1, voluntary contributions to the Institute for 1998;

(b) Table 2, current status of voluntary contribution for 1999;

(c) Table 3, current status of voluntary contribution for 2000;

(d) Table 4, estimated income and expenditure for 1999 and 2000;

(e) Table 5, estimated resource requirements for 1999 and 2000.

Notes

[a] General Assembly resolution 39/148 H, annex, of 17 December 1984.

Table 1
Voluntary contributions to the Institute for 1998
(United States dollars)

A. Voluntary contributions for 1998[a]	
Australia	40 000
Brazil	45 000
Cyprus	1 000
Denmark	11 760
Finland	27 122
France[b]	420 000
Greece	7 600
Israel	4 929
Italy	5 000
Luxembourg	2 671
Netherlands	9 869
New Zealand	4 000
Norway	100 000
Switzerland	46 301
United States (Arms Control and Disarmament Agency)	151 000
United Kingdom	366 840
Subtotal	**1 243 092**
B. Public donation	
Dortmund University (Germany)	2 972
Subtotal	**2 972**
Total contributions paid for 1998	**1 246 064**

[a] In addition, UNIDIR received $11,171 from the European Council and $6,565 from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (recorded as "Miscellaneous income").

[b] Part of the French contribution for 1997 ($140,000) was paid in 1998.

Table 2
Current status of voluntary contributions for 1999

Contributor	*United States dollars*
Finland (received)	25 505
France (pledged)	280 000
Greece (received)	7 600
Israel (pledged)	5 000
Norway (pledged)	75 000
Switzerland (received)	46 200
United Kingdom (received)	243 000
Total estimates income from voluntary sources for 1999 to date[a]	**682 305**

[a] In addition, UNIDIR will benefit from a contribution in kind in the amount of $50,000 from the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, for a joint conference on information technology warfare to be held in August 1999.

Table 3
Current status of voluntary contributions for 2000

Contributor	*United States dollars*
France	280 000
Greece	7 600
Total	**287 600**

Table 4
Estimated income and expenditure for 1999 and 2000
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item	*1999 estimates*	*2000 estimates*	*Increase (decrease)*
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	751.8	520.0	(231.8)
B. Income			
Voluntary contributions and public donations	682.3[a]	287.6[b]	(394.7)
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget[c]	213.0	213.0	0
Interest income	20.0	10.0	(10.0)
Total income	**915.3**	**510.6**	**(404.7)**
C. Total funds available (A+B)	1 667.1	1 030.6	(636.5)
D. Expenditure	1 147.1	857.9	(289.2)
E. Fund balance at the end of the year (C-D)	520.0[d]	172.7[e]	(347.3)

[a] See table 2 for details of the current status of voluntary contributions for 1999.

[b] See table 3 for details of the current status of voluntary contributions for 2000.

[c] The amount of the regular budget subvention to UNIDIR was fixed at $426,000 for the biennium 1998–1999.

[d] Includes $133,400 required as operating cash reserve for 1999.

[e] Includes $92,100 required as operating cash reserve for 2000.

Table 5
Estimated resource requirements for 1999 and 2000[a]
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	*1999 estimates*	*2000 estimates*	*Increase (decrease)*
A. Direct programme and administrative costs			
Consultants' fees and travel	145.4	15.0	(130.4)
Ad hoc expert groups	41.5	0	(41.5)
Salaries and related staff costs	439.4[b]	429.9[c]	(9.5)
Personal service contract	354.3	342.0	(12.3)
Language training	4.8	4.8	0
Other specialized training	10.0	0	(10.0)
Other contractual printing	5.0	2.0	(3.0)
Official travel of staff	41.3	10.0	(31.3)
Advertising and promotion	7.5	0	(7.5)
Conference room rent	7.0	0	(7.0)
Rental of conference service equipment	4.0	2.0	(2.0)

Resource requirements	*1999 estimates*	*2000 estimates*	*Increase (decrease)*
Hospitality	4.9	0	(4.9)
Maintenance of office automation equipment	7.0	7.0	0
Paper for internal reproduction	12.0	8.0	(4.0)
Library books	2.0	0	(2.0)
Subscriptions and standing orders	1.5	1.5	0
Data-processing supplies	5.0	5.0	0
Acquisition of office equipment	10.0	0	(10.0)
Total	**1 102.6**	**827.2**	**(275.4)**
B. Programme support costs			
(5 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	44.5	30.7	(13.8)
Total expenditure	**1 147.1**	**857.9**	**(289.2)**
C. Operating cash reserve			
(15 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	133.4	92.1	(41.3)
Grand total A+B+C	**1 280.5**	**950.0**	**(330.5)**

[a] These figures will be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

[b] Based on standard salary costs for 1999 — version 06, applicable to Geneva.

[c] Based on standard salary costs for 2000 — version 02, applicable to Geneva.